

**Nuclear Security Summit
Seoul, 26-27 March 2012**

**Statement by H.E. Mario Monti,
Prime Minister of Italy**

**Working lunch, March 27th 2012
“Nuclear Safety – Security interface”
(check against delivery)**

We are confronted with numerous problems, ranging from enhancing safety standards aimed at preventing accidents caused by natural events or malicious acts, to the coordinated and efficient organisation of plans to confront emergencies that follow nuclear accidents, on a national, regional and international level. Enhancing Independent international review mechanisms by making them mandatory rather voluntary is gaining growing attention. Such reviews will assess whether national safety programs are adequate and indicate the improvements that appear necessary. The stress tests undertaken in Europe, and in other countries with civilian nuclear programmes, will provide useful indications for the improvement of the safety and security of the existing NPP and for the strengthening of the international safety and security frameworks.

I find it appropriate that the nexus between nuclear safety and nuclear security has been brought to the attention of this Summit. Our objective is the protection of people and the environment from the effects of radiation exposure, be it caused by natural events or intentional and malicious acts.

Even if safety and security are distinct issues and have been dealt with separately both at the national and international level, an integrated and coherent approach appears increasingly necessary. This applies both to the measures to be adopted and to the regulatory measures undertaken in the two sectors. The tragic accident at Fukushima Dai-Ichi bears witness to the pressing need for a coordinated approach.

Full integration is hindered by the confidentiality required in managing nuclear security information. This prevents the full transparency which, instead, is required for nuclear safety.

Further steps towards increased integration are feasible and welcome. We should reduce to the minimum the areas which require separate interventions, while ensuring a general coordination in the two fields.

As to nuclear security, the Italian legal and operational framework goes in the right direction by considering separately “active” and “passive” measures of physical protection. The bodies in charge of “passive” protection (i.e. the Ministry of Economic Development and the regulator ISPRA) are also in charge of nuclear safety. With these task assignments, conditions are in place in Italy for a coherent approach to nuclear safety and security by plant operators and regulatory authorities.

It is important, in conclusion, that national regulatory and control systems are structured in a way that the safety-security interface is adequately managed so as to ensure that all measures taken are coordinated and compatible.
